

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 H-01
INR-10 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01
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R 191655Z MAY 78
FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2853
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO ALL MBFR MISSIONS
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK POUCH

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0269

FROM US REP MBFR

USSALTTWO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO
SUBJ: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: SUMMARY REPORT FOR PERIOD MAY 15-21

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IN A STATEMENT DELIVERED AT THE FIRST PLENARY
MEETING OF THE FIFTEENTH ROUND OF THE VIENNA FORCE REDUCTION
NEGOTIATIONS, GDR REP OESER SAID THAT THE WESTERN INITIATIVE
OF APRIL 19 WAS OF LIMITED SIGNIFICANCE BECAUSE IT WAS
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MADE DEPENDENT ON EASTERN ACCEPTANCE OF THE BASIC WESTERN
POSITION WHICH REMAINED UNCHANGED. GDR REP MADE THE SAME
POINT IN HIS PREPARED REMARKS AT A POST-PLENARY PRESS CONFERENCE,
BUT WENT ON TO STATE IN RESPONSE TO FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS THAT THIS
WAS A PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT AND DID NOT, THEREFORE, CONSTITUTE
REJECTION OF THE INITIATIVE WHICH, HE AMDE CLEAR, WAS STILL BEING
STUDIED BY EASTERN PARTICIPANTS. IN INITIAL BILATERAL CONVERSA-

TIONS, EASTERN REPS, OESER INCLUDED, REITERATED THAT EASTERN EXAMINATIONS OF THE INITIATIVE WAS AS YET INCOMPLETE. END SUMMARY.

2. THE FIFTEENTH ROUND OF THE VIENNA TALKS BEGAN THE WEEK OF MAY 15. THE FIRST PLENARY MEETING OF THE NEW ROUND TOOK PLACE ON MAY 18. LUXEMBOURG REP INTER AND GDR REP OESER DELIVERED THE ONLY STATEMENTS.

3. IN HIS STATEMENT, LUXEMBOURG REP ASSESSED THE STATUS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AND SUMMARIZED THE NEW PROPOSALS FORMALLY INTRODUCED BY THE WEST ON APRIL 19. IN SO DOING, HE EMPHASIZED THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE LATTER AS HAVING CREATED THE POSSIBILITY FOR DECISIVE MOVEMENT TOWARD THE EARLY CONCLUSION OF A FIRST AGREEMENT. LUXEMBOURG REP ALSO STRESSED THE FUNDAMENTAL REQUIREMENT FOR PARTICIPANTS TO CONTINUE THEIR EFFORTS TO RESOLVE EXISTING EAST-WEST DIFFERENCES OVER WARSAW PACT MILITARY MANPOWER STRENGTH IN THE REDUCTION AREA.

4. GDR REP, IN HIS PLENARY PRESENTATION, SAID THAT THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE WESTERN INITIATIVE OF APRIL 19 WAS LIMITED BECAUSE IT WAS MADE DEPENDENT ON ACCEPTANCE OF AN UNCHANGED BASIC WESTERN POSITION AND THAT, CONSEQUENTLY, IT WAS INSUFFICIENT CONTRIBUTION TO A TURNING POINT IN THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS. HE SPECIFICALLY FAULTED THE WEST FOR CONTINUING TO: (A) SEEK UNILATERAL ADVANTAGES THROUGH ASYMMETRICAL REDUCTION; (B) REJECT IN PRINCIPLE THE REDUCTION OF ANY WESTERN ARMAMENTS OTHER THAN CERTAIN US NUCLEAR ELEMENTS AND
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OF AIR FORCES; AND (C) REFUSE NATIONAL REDUCTION OBLIGATIONS FOR NON-US WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS. GDR REP'S PRESENTATION ALSO INCLUDED AN APPEAL TO THE WEST TO ADOPT THE EASTERN PROPOSAL FOR AN IMMEDIATE MANPOWER FREEZE IN THE AREA, THE CHARGE THAT NATO STATES WERE INCREASING THEIR ARMED FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE, WITH REFERENCE UNDER THIS HEADING TO CONTINUED SUPPORT IN INFLUENTIAL CIRCLES FOR THE PRODUCTION AND DEPLOYMENT OF QUOTE NEUTRON WEAPONS UNQUOTE, AND A STRONG DEFENSE OF THE PROPOSITION THAT THERE WAS ALREADY AN APPROXIMATE MILITARY BALANCE IN THE AREA AS REGARDS BOTH MANPOWER AND ARMAMENTS.

5. A LENGTHY, PREPARED STATEMENT DELIVERED BY GDR REP AT A POST-PLENARY PRESS CONFERENCE MADE ALL OF THE ABOVE POINTS EXCEPT FOR THE CHARACTERIZATION OF THE NEW WESTERN INITIATIVE AS QUOTE AN INSUFFICIENT CONTRIBUTION TO A TURNING POINT UNQUOTE IN THE TALKS. IN RESPONSE TO FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FROM REPORTERS, GDR REP MADE CLEAR THAT HIS ASSESSMENT OF THE WEST'S LATEST PROPOSALS WAS A PRELIMINARY ONE AND THAT IT WOULD, THEREFORE, BE INCORRECT TO CONSTRUE IT AS AN EASTERN REJECTION OF THEM. HE ADDED THAT THE EASTERN STUDY OF THE WESTERN INITIATIVE WAS, IN FACT, CONTINUING, BUT DECLINED TO SPECULATE WHEN THAT STUDY MIGHT BE COMPLETED. IN INITIAL BILATERAL CONVERSATIONS, EASTERN REPS, INCLUDING OESER,

SIMILARLY COMMENTED THAT EASTERN PARTICIPANTS WERE STILL EXAMINING THE CONTENTS OF THE LATEST WESTERN MOVE.

6. ON MAY 17, THE AD HOC GROUP DISCUSSED OPENING WESTERN TACTICS FOR THE NEW ROUND. IT WAS AGREED THAT, WHILE REMAINING READY TO ANSWER POSSIBLE EASTERN QUESTIONS ABOUT NEW WESTERN PROPOSALS, WESTERN REPS WOULD NOT PRESS AGGRESSIVELY FOR A RAPID EASTERN RESPONSE TO THEM SO LONG AS THERE WERE INDICATIONS THAT THE PROPOSALS WERE UNDER ACTIVE STUDY. IT WAS FURTHER AGREED THAT WESTERN REPS SHOULD SUSTAIN VIGOROUS EFFORTS IN THE DATA DISCUSSION TO IDENTIFY THE SOURCES OF EAST-WEST DIFFERENCES OVER THE MANPOWER STRENGTH OF WARSAW PACT ARMED FORCES IN THE REDUCTION AREA. RESOR

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